

# Virginia City NEVADA EST. 1859

## MEET VIRGINIA CITY'S REAL-LIFE CHARACTERS

*Below the Surface with the Legends Who Call Virginia City Home*

# BELOW THE



**VIRGINIA CITY, Nev.** —Virginia City made a name for itself in 1859 when eager prospectors struck it rich and the Comstock Lode was discovered. What was a small mining camp quickly became the largest city west of Denver. Today, the 900-resident town may be a fraction of its once booming 25,000 population, yet Virginia City remains rich in character. A look beneath the surface of Virginia City's highly visited C-street, its docents and wooden sidewalks, reveals admired craftsmen, makers, miners, historians, hoteliers and wardens who call Virginia City home.

In the spirit of the prospectors of the past, Virginia City's modern entrepreneurs are industrious, passionate and ambitious. These real-life legends also showcase Virginia City's modern prosperity. Visitors and fans are invited to dig deeper and meet the real-life characters of Virginia City:

*The Hatmaker:* A trade that dates back 150 years comes alive today through a local hatmaker and his story about why he calls Virginia City home and his obsession with hats. [Watch.](#)

*Pots and Pans:* There's a culinary experience to be had and it includes homemade jerky at the [Jerky Company](#) and south of the border cuisine at [Café Del Rio](#). These chefs share culinary delights and how their trades have personal connections and local secrets. [Watch.](#)

*Roots:* The Historic [Fourth Ward School Museum & Archives](#) is the last school standing of its kind. The archives at the museum are a special collection that connects visitors to the past and are designed to preserve family heritages. [Watch](#).

*Bloodlines:* Home of the Comstock Lode, Virginia City's rich mining heritage comes to life through the stories of local experts who live and breathe mining, just like the generations before them. [Watch](#).

*Crown Point:* Gold Hill, Nevada, located a mile south of Virginia City, is the home of the major find known as the Comstock Lode. Learn about the past and explore the future of this small community through the stories of preservation and modern-day life at the Gold Hill Hotel, the oldest continuously operating hotel in Nevada. [Watch](#).

*Spirits:* Virginia City is known for its spirits and today has bottled it up in the form of [Cemetery Gin](#). Distilled at the Frey Ranch Distillery, an estate distillery located in Fallon, Nevada, Cemetery Gin is all Nevada made including Nevada pine nuts added to the recipe. A dollar from every bottle sold is donated to the Comstock Cemetery Foundation for preservation efforts. [Watch](#).

*Craftsmen:* Virginia City's local craftsmen bring late Comstock trades back to life through the modern day [Virginia City Brewery & Taphouse](#) and [The Roasting House](#). [Watch](#).

*Steam Built:* The history of the [Virginia & Truckee Railroad](#) is a part of Virginia City's foundation. The preservation efforts to maintain and keep it alive and steaming along is what fuels owner Tom Gray. [Watch](#).

*Saints and Sinners:* The role of the church in the wild history of Virginia City. [Watch](#).

*Renaissance:* Discover the amazing history of the arts in Virginia City, and how they shaped the town. [Watch](#).

Get more acquainted with the characters of Virginia City in the Below the Surface video showcase. View all the videos online at [VCBelowTheSurface.com](#).

For more information on Virginia City, Nevada visit [visitvirginiacitynv.com](#) or call the Virginia City Tourism Commission (VCTC) at 775-847-7500.

*A short 30-minute drive from the Reno-Tahoe International Airport takes visitors to one of the largest historic districts in the United States - **Virginia City, Nevada**. Come experience this mining "boomtown" as it was in the 1800's. Step back in time while visiting the numerous historic buildings, saloons, churches and museums or take a mine tour or even ride a real steam train. The Comstock Adventure Passes offer the best value with discounted attraction packages. For lodging, event calendar or Comstock Adventure Passes, [visit online](#) or call 775-847-7500. The Visitor Information Center is located at 86 South C Street, Virginia City.*

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